ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

13th Annual Session

OF THE

Columbia Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Bluff Springs Church, Henry County, Ala.,

NOVEMBER 3d, 4th and 5th, 1897.

R. M. JACKSON,
CLERK.

W. C. CLEVELAND,
MODERATOR.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

N. S. FELLOWS, C. C. RADNEY, DAN WILLIAMS.

NEXT SESSION TO BE HELD WITH ANNIE YORK CHURCH, GENEVA COUNTY, ALA., TEN MILES SOUTH OF DOTHAN, COMMENCING WEDNESDAY BEFORE THE FIRST SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER, 1898, AND CONTINUING THREE DAYS.

The Breeze Job Print, Columbia: 1897.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

I. Called to order by former Moderator.

II. Introductory Sermon.

III. Reading of Letters and Enrolling of Delegates.

IV. Organization.

V. Petitionary letters.

VI. Called for Correspondents and Visiting Brethren.

VII. Appointing Correspondents.

VIII. Appointing special Committees as follows:

1. On Preaching.
2. On Finance.
3. On Nominations.
4. On Deceased Ministers and Deacons.
5. On Time and Place.
6. On Documents.

IX. Report of Standing Committees as follows:

1. Executive Committee.
2. Treasurer.
3. Temperance.
4. Orphanage.
5. Missions, (1) State, (2) Home, (3) Foreign.
6. Education.
7. Sunday Schools.
8. Ministerial Education.

X. Report of Special Committees.

XI. Miscellaneous Business.

MINUTES

OF THE

Columbia Baptist Association.

Bluff Springs, November 3rd, 1897.

The Columbia Baptist Association according to previous appointment met in its 13th annual session with Bluff Springs Church, this Wednesday Nov. 3rd, 1897, at 10:30 o'clock, former Moderator, W. C. Cleveland presiding.

After devotional exercises, led by Bro. G. W. Oiiff, for 30 minutes, Bro. J. J. White preached the introductory sermon from the text: "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrines; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." 1st Timothy, IV chapter, 16th verse. The subject of the sermon was directed to the ministers of the Association, showing what an acceptable servant of Christ should be, in order to have blessings of God in the leading of souls to the ways of righteousness. These plain forceful words will long be remembered and no doubt bear fruit in the future.

After services the letters of Churches were called for and read by Brethren B. G. Farmer and N. S. Fellows.

The following Churches were represented as stated:

Annie York—W P. Deshazo, S. Williford.
Ashford—J. P. Dupree, C. C Radney.
Bay Springs—T. B. Fortson, F. A. Brookins.
Balkum—John R. Gamble.
Bethel—J. K. Prevat, J. B. Prevat.
Bluff Springs—D. Anderson, M. A. Nowell and A. E. Sinquefield.
Camp Springs—J. F. Hasty, S. H. Lane.
Columbia—W. C. Cleveland, F. A. Grimsley.
Cowarts—Jno. R. Callaway, Wm. Crawford and Vandy Forrester.
Dothan—B. G. Farmer, C. W Lewis.
Ebenezer—W. S. Weeks, J. O. Williams.
Enterprise—M. H. Gifford, J. S. Nowell.
Gordon—Not represented.
Halesburg—S. A. Savell.
Hickory Grove—C. C. Hatton, W. L. Hatton
Liberty—S. Willoughby
Memphis—S T. Spivey, G. J. Spivey.
Midway—J. T. Moates.
Mt. Ararat—D. A. Snead, Joe. McArdel.
Mt. Enon—J P. Stephens
Mt. Gilead—B. F. Brookins, J J. Carroll.
Mt Pleasant—W. W. Pettis, W. E. Mann.
New Providence—H. B. White, W. J. Smith.
Pilgrims Rest—W. P. Jordan.
Pleasant Hill—D. Y. Culbreth, J. M. Hall.
Pleasant Grove—H. H. Etheridge, E. G Jones.
Pleasant Plains—By letter only.
Rehoboth—Enoch Taylor.
Selma—H. L. Lisenby, P L Martin.
Sharon—B. H Whiddon, M. M. Wade.
Shiloh—Not represented
Union Hill—W. K. Gilmore, Wm. Cameron and John Outlaw.

Adjourned one and a half hours for refreshments.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, and after prayers by Brethren S. A. Savell and A. J. Preston, the Association was organized with the election of W. C. Cleveland, Moderator, R. M. Jackson, Clerk, and B. A. Forrester Treasurer.

1. Called for —

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

We find nothing as an executive committee to report. The duties guarded and looked into by us have been discharged. The money coming to the Association has been disposed of as the Association ordered. Respectfully Submitted.

N. S. FELLOWS,
Chairman.

The foregoing report was received and adopted.

2. Called for—

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

The use and sale of intoxicating liquors is the greatest evil now extant in our land It brings more sorrow, more shame, more disgrace and more poverty to the human race than all other evils combined. And we submit that the sale and use or aid given to the sale of it by the Baptists of our country should be discontinued. And any brother who lends his support to same should be excluded from the Church. Respectfully submitted, N. S. FELLOWS,
Chairman.

After able discussions by Brethren B. G. Farmer, S. A. Savell and A. J. Preston the report above was adopted.

3. Called for—

TREASURER'S REPORT.

And received the following:

B. A. Forrester in account with the Columbia Association:

Dr.	Dec. 8, 1896, To paid for printing minutes	$ 30.00	
	Dec. 15, 1896, To paid F. W. Zimmerman Clerk fees	$ 25.00	
	Dec. 15, 1896, Remitted Bledsoe, Foreign Missions	$ 46.00	
	Dec. 15, 1896, Remitted Bledsoe, Home Missions	$ 14.00	
	Dec. 15, 1896, Remitted Bledsoe, State Missions	$ 15.91	
	Dec. 15, 1896, Remitted J. W. Stewart, Orphans Home	$ 59.25	
	Dec. 15, 1896, Registering fees	20	
	Dec. 15, 1896, Postage, distributing Minutes	$ 1.40	
	Balance	$ 1.16	
			$192.92
Cr.	Oct. 1895, By Balance	$ 1.74	
	Oct. 28th, 1896, Amount received for Missions	$ 17.41	
	Oct. 28, 1896, Amount received for Orphans Home	$ 9.25	
	Oct. 28, 1896, Amount received from Finance Com.	$164.52	
			$192.92
	By Balance due Columbia Association	$ 1.16	

4. Called for—

REPORT ON ORPHANAGE.

The Association had the following paper read, which was received.

FACTS ABOUT THE ORPHANAGE.

Its name is Louise Short Baptist Widows and Orphans Home of Alabama.

The first step taken toward establishing it was in November, 1890, when the State Convention was in session in Mobile Mrs. M. B. L. Woodson made known to the Convention through Rev. F. C. Plaster, that she would give her real estate to the maintainance of a Baptist Widows and Orphans Home in Alabama. The

home, however, was not actually started till March 10th, 1893, when in a small rented house we received three poor children. It had now been only temporarily located in Evergreen. By November, our family numbered twenty-two and the trustees after advertising for bids for location, selected property in Evergreen, and located the home permanently.

The property has been paid for and there is no incumberance on it.

There have been received into it in all 70 children, 37 girls and 33 boys, 32 of whom have gone out, so that at present we have 38. Of those that have gone out two have been apprenticed, seven have returned to their people, and twenty three have been adopted.

There have been received from the following counties: Barbour, 3; Lee, 3; Covington, 8; Talladega, 6; Limestone, 1; Walker, 6; Escambia, 7; Conecuh, 2; Monroe, 4; Tuscaloosa, 3; Jefferson, 8; Montgomery, 2; Marengo, 4; Russell 1; Pike, 4; Bibb, 2; Chambers, 1; Butler, 3; Tallapoosa, 2. The children have enjoyed good health this year. There has never been a death in the home. They are under firm loving control. They seem to be contented and happy. They are taught to do various kinds of work. All who are old enough attend the Agricultural School. The home is receiving some important and much needed improvements. At present hands are greatly needed to do this work. Only a few churches and Sunday schools contribute to us regularly, and there is more than 1,200 churches in the state that have never given a cent to it. The work commends itself to the Lord's people. Brethren help.

J. W. STEWART,
Financial Secretary.

After speeches by Brethren A. J. Preston and W. C. Cleveland, a collection of $20.35 was taken and report adopted.

5. Petitionary letters were called for, and upon which the following Churches and messengers applied for admission, and were cordially received and welcomed.

I. Annie York, W. D. Deshazo, S. Williford. II. Pleasant Grove, H. H. Etheridge, E. G. Jones.

6. Messengers from corresponding Associations were present: Judson Association—Revs. A. Danghety and W. H. F. Smith. From the West Fla.—Revs. J. D. Courteny, J. W. Johnson.

7. Volunteer Messengers were enrolled to corresponding Associations as follows: W. C. Cleveland, J. J. White and F. W. Zimmerman.

8. Visitors were called for, and Rev. A. J. Preston, State Evangelist, was recognized and welcomed.

9. The following Committees were appointed to report at this session, viz: On Preaching: P. L. Martin, J. J. White, B. H. Whiddon, and the Messengers from this Church. On State of Churches: J. A. Pitts, W. J. Smith, and W. P. Jordan. On Finance: F. W. Zimmerman, O. L. McArthur, and F. A. Grimsley. On Nominatons: J. P. Dupree, C. V. Miller, and John R. Caldwell. On Time and Place: J. P. Stephens, W. H. Jerkins, and W. P. Deshazo.

10. On motion, Bro. Lane, Bro. J. F. Hasty was seated as delegate from Camp Springs.

11. The Committee on Preaching, reported as follows: Preaching at the harbor to-morrow at 10 o'clock, by J. D. Courteny, of the West Fla. Association, at 11 o'clock to-morow, at the House by Rev. A. J. Preston, State Evangelist. Hours for meeting were fixed at 9 a. m. and 1:30 p. m.

12. At 4:30 the Association adjourned with benediction by the Moderator.

THURSDAY—MORNING SESSION.

13. The Association was called to order at 9 o'clock by the Moderator. Devotional exercises led by Bro. W. P. Stewart.

14. On motion, B. G. Farmer, the Committee on Nominations nominate ten delegates to State Convention, and one delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention. Motion received and adopted.

15. On motion B. G. Farmer, that the Committee appointed at last session to settle the trouble between Union Hill and Memphis, make report at this session. Motion adopted. (The above Committee did not hand in report, Clerk.)

16. On motion of B. G. Farmer, the Moderator appointed a Committee of three, consisting of B. G. Farmer, J. J. White, and R. M. Jackson, to draw up new order of business for the Association.

17. Called for—

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

We, your committee beg leave to make the following report:

State Missions are clearly now in view of the approaching convention meeting, the department of "God's" cause that specially appeals to Baptists for their consideration, their prayers and offerings. The individual Christian is the fundamental factor in Christianity and responsibility falls directly upon him. But Christ clearly means that the individual shall not stand isolated, but shall unite his prayers, his voice, his councils and his resources with others, in forwarding God's work. Evangelization is the great work of Christ, and it is the great work of the Church. All missionary work at the beginning and in all territorial progress is evangelizing work. There are, in the several sections of the state, six evangelists, Brother Purser in the North, Brother Sandlin in the North-West, Brother Dickinson in and around Birmingham, Bro. Parker, in the South-West, Bro. Anderson, in the East, and last, but not least, our own Bro. Prestridge, here, in the South-East, whom you all know, has labored faithfully and earnestly for the furtherance of God's cause. Respectfully submitted. W. P. STEWART,
Chairman

18. Called for—

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Board is located at Atlanta, Ga., and I. T. Tichenor, D. D., is the Corresponding Secretary. The hardest year ever experienced by the Home Mission Board has past into history. The board began it with a debt of $8,000, and an obligation to pay $5,700 on the house of worship, purchased for the first, in New Orleans, making a total of $13 700 over and above the support of our Missionaries, required to meet our financial needs for the year. The great financial pressure which embarrassed all our mission boards seemed to increase the needs of our Home Mission field and made numerous and earnest cries for help that come from nearly every quarter.

The report of the past Conventional Year is as follows: Missionaries, 372; Weeks of labor, 11,075; Churches and Stations, 1,963 Sermons and Addresses, 48 508; Prayer meetings, 11,237; Religous visits, 62,175; Baptism, 4,709; Received by Letter 4,746; Total additions, 9,455; Churches constituted, 139; Houses of worship built 57; Houses of worship improved, 129; Amount expended on houses of worship, $52,040;

Sunday Schools organized, 313; Teachers and pupils, 10,725; Bibles and Testaments, 2 837; Tracts distributed, (pages) 645,346.

The State Boards of Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indian Territory, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina Oklahoma Territory, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Western Arkansas and Indian Territory and Western North Carolina are in cooperation with us in part or the whole of their work, and we recommend that this Association, and all of our people contribute liberally to the support of our Home field, and we pray the blessings of God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to be with our Missonaries, for the saivation of souls, and the extension of the kingdom of our dear Redeemer

Respectfully submitted.

S. A. SAVELL,
J. R. JACKSON, } Committee
S. T. HALL,

Adopted.

19. Called for—

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

J. F. HASTY.

Adopted.

20. By invitation Brethren A. J. Preston and W. C. Cleveland made able speeches to the Association, on the subject of Missions, after which a collection of $12.63 was taken and appropriated to State Missions.

The time having arrived for preaching, the business of the Association was continued to 1:30 o'clock. Bro. Preston preaching in the house and Bro. J. W. Johnson at the harbor.

21. Called to order by the Moderator, and session opened with prayer by Rev. W. H. F. Smith.

22. Appointed to report at next session, the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Executive—N. S. Fellows, C. C. Radney, and Dan Williams
Temperance—J. R. G. Howell, C. V. Miller and Jno. R. Caldwell.
Orphanage—B. G. Farmer, A. F. Sinquefield and M. H. Gilford.
State Missions—W. P. Stewart, F. A. Grimsley and J. F. Hasty.
Home Missions—J. J. White, J. K. Prevatt and M. P. Gilmore.
Foreign Missions—G. W. Oliff, H. H. Etheridge and W. P. Deshazo.
Education—R. M. Jackson, O. L. McArthur and B. J. Fordham.
Sunday Schools—J. P. Dupree, F. W. Zimmerman and Milus Kirkland.
Ministerial Education—C. W. Lewis, J. P. Stephens and M. Cody.

23. Report of Committee on New Order of Business.

We your Committee beg leave to submit the following

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

I. Called to order by former Moderator.
II. Introductory Sermon.
III. Reading of Letters and Enrolling of Delegates.
IV. Organization.

V. Petitionary Letters.
VI. Call for Correspondents and visiting Brethren.
VII. Appointing Correspondents
VIII. Appointing Special Committees as follows:
1 On Preaching.
2 On Finance.
3. On Nominations.
4. On Deceased Ministers and Deacons
5. On Time and Place.
6 On Documents.

IX. Report of Standing Committees as follows:

1. Executive.
2. Treasurer.
3 Temperance.
4. Orphanage
5. Missions (1) State, (2) Home, (3) Foreign.
6. Education.
7. Sunday Schools.
8. Ministerial Education.
X Report of Special Committees.
XI Miscelaneous.

Respectfully,
B. G. FARMER,
J. J. WHITE,
R. M. JACKSON. } Committee.

24. Brethren B. G. Farmer, A. J. Preston and B. A. Forrester made earnest appeals to the several Churches composing the Columbia Association, to try to raise 25c per member, for Missions, for the next year. And the following Churches, by their delegates, promised to do their best. Ashford, Balkum, Bay Springs, Bethel, Bluff Springs, Camp Springs, Columbia, Cowarts, Dothan, Ebenezer, Enterprise, Hickory Grove, Liberty, Memphis, Midway, Mt. Enon, Mt. Pleasant, New Providence, Pleasant Plains, Pilgrims Rest, Pleasant Grove, Selma, Sharon and Annie York.

25. B. G. Farmer read the

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The usual tenor and sentiment of reports, on the subject of Sunday Schools to the Association, are to a very considerable extent misleading and largely untrue for the reason these reports always represent that the Sunday School interest, in the bounds of the Association, is flourishing, and by such a representation, people are led to the conclusion that we are doing our whole duty with reference to this work. It is here stated that, so far as the information of the writer goes, there is life and activity in the Sunday School work in the Columbia Association, but when that is said, we have presented the situation with all the favor that the condition of things will allow. We are glad it is good so far, and every good man who values home and his children should rejoice on account of the benefits of the institution and the influence it exerts over the people of our country. But while the Baptists of the Columbia Association are thus congratulating themselves, many of you ought to hang your heads in shame, because you do nothing to advance

this cause in any particular. Good men, good women so far forget or disregard their duty to themselves, to their families and to their God, that they never lend their presence, aid or concern to the cause of Sunday Schools.

G. W. OLIFF,
Chairman.

26. The above report was tabled until in the morning.

Bro. B. Davie was introduced to the Association by the Moderator, and welcomed as a visitor and made a short talk on the subject of Denominational Sunday School Conventions.

27. At 4:30 the Association adjourned with benediction by W. P. Stewart.

FRIDAY—MORNING SESSION.

28. After devotional exercises, led by Rev. S. T. Spivey, 30 minutes, the Association was called to order by the Moderator. The report of Sunday Schools being the special order, the report was entertainingly discussed by Brethren Farmer, Forrester, Cleveland and Hall.

Report adopted.

29. The Clerk read the report on Nominations.

We, your committee on nominations, submit the following brethren as delegates to the State Convention, viz: B. A. Forrester, R. R. Adams, N. S. Fellows, G. H. Malone, M. Cody Sr., W. C. Cleveland, J. J. White, B. G. Farmer, W. P. Stewart and M. P. Gilmore. We also nominated Dr. W. C. Cleveland delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention and B. G. Farmer alternate. We nominate Rev. W. P. Stewart to preach introductory sermon at next session.

J. P. DUPREE,
Chairman.

Report adopted.

30. On motion by Bro. F. W. Zimmerman, to give all the money collected for Missions at this session, to State Mission. Motion prevailed.

31. Brother J. J. White read

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

"Education," it is said, "is the instinction, the foundation of manners." There has been but few races or families of Earth's inhabitants, but what has had some fashion by which they more or less educate their children; some of the most rude, even the Indian, has had some things real attracting, i.e., in their manners. It is an actual proof of a God given principle that moves his creatures to feel it a duty they owe to their off-springs: How can parents in a civilized country, with the educational facilities we have here, prove to us that they love their children, when they let grow up to man and womanhood, without the fundamental principles of an education, those whom the wise creator has entrusted them with. There is time enough spent, in most communities, in disputes over teachers and where the school house shall be built, how much public money appropriated for the school, or I will send as long as the public funds last, (to say nothing of the money spent for the various ruinous poisons,) to amply educate every sane minded child, both white and black in America. Boys and girls are educated because the laws of the land so provide, and so necessitate it in some countries: Oh! how we boast of our American liberties. We are made to think, sometimes they are an injury to us in this one particular. There should be a law to make us school our children as well

as give them other home provisions and protections. The wise and loving God has arranged, in the order of his providence, that both poor and rich may educate their children. Many who neglect it do it to their shame and that of their children. Often men and women grow up without the advantages of an education, feeling the responsibilities of life coming upon them, and to meet them, decidedly unprepared, Oh! what an embarrassment. The father of a many a boy has been made to blush yea, even to weep, when he saw that his boy believed himself called to preach the gospel without even a primary English education. We who have had to suffer under such a weight, should engage our pens, and raise our voices both in public and in private, against the sin of neglecting our dear children in this important matter, until we move our people to more activity along this line, Let a strong, healthy man neglect his offspring, in the way of furnishing provisions to eat and clothes to wear and every man or woman who has a human soul, says he ought to be denounced, yes he ought to be made to support his family by law. Which of the two is the most deserving the contempt of the public? Neglect to feed the body, you have a physical dwarf, neglect the proper training of the mind you have a mental dwarf.

J. J. WHITE,
Chairman.

32. Was read by B. G. Farmer

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

We, your Committee on Ministerial Education find from data furnished us by the various Churches of Columbia Association, that a fund of —— has been raised and applied to the general fund set apart for the purpose of aiding indigent and worthy young men in securing an education, young men who are unable to educate themselves for the noble work and high calling to which they have been called. It is the sense of your Committee that an imperative demand for an educated ministry is constantly growing, from the fact that the people are progressing and becoming more inteligent. Therefore we would respectfully recommend that each Church in this Association adopt some systematic way of contributing to this laudable and important fund, a system by which every member can be made to feel the necessity of contributing. It is known to your committee that Owen Chancy, a member of the Baptist church at Dothan is a deserving, humble Christian who feels the divine call to the ministry, is making a hard and honest effort to prepare himself for his God-given work, and that he is without means. Bro. Chancy is at Howard College and expects every Baptist of the Association to help. We ernestly hope that every one will feel impressed to do something to promote Ministerial Education.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. B STAPLETON.

Discussed by Brethren, J. J. White, B. G. Farmer and B. A. Forrester. Brother Farmer asked for pledges to Ministerial Education and the following were given to be paid by April 1st, 1898:

Cowarts	$15.00
Columbia	15.00
Dothan	30.00
Bluff Springs (paid)	1.00
Sharon	1.00
Pleasant Plains	1.00
Mt Ararat	1.00
Ebenezer	1.00
Enterprise,	1.00
Camp Springs	1.00

Pilgrims Rest	1.00
Mt. Enon	1.00
Bethel	1.00
Union Hill	1.00
Annie York	1.00
S. Williford	1.00
Bay Springs	1.00
Ashford	5.00
S. T. Spivey	1.00
Hickory Grove	1.00
Midway	1.00
Pleasant Hill	1.00
J. R. Paramore	1.00
Mt. Pleasant	1.00
Cash Contribution	4.55

33. A. J. Pitts read

REPORT ON STATE OF THE CHURCHES.

We your committee, beg leave to make the following report: We find all Churches in a prosperous condition, that there have been numerous additions to the membership of each one.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. PITTS,
W. J. SMITH,
W. P. JORDAN. } Committee.

Report adopted.

34. B. A. Forrester read

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.

We your committee, beg to report as follows: This being a reading age, that man and woman are continually wanting to learn more every day, of the great work, of what the Baptist people are doing. We, as Missionary Baptists, advocate the principles of publishing to the world what we are doing, and trying to do, for the Master's cause. We publish one Baptist paper in Montgomery Ala which we would recommend to all Baptists to keep in their homes, and not Baptists alone, but all that are wanting to learn more about Baptists. It costs one dollar and a half per year. Also our Mission Journal published at Richmond, Va., single copy 35c. Our Home Field published at Atlanta, Ga., single copy 20c per year, fifty copies or more to one address 5c each per year

To the Sunday Schools we recommend the Southern Baptist Convention Series, published at Nashville, Tenn, for sale by J. B. Collier, Secretary, Montgomery, Ala.

Respectfully submitted,

B. A. FORRESTER,
J. H. LANE,
C. V. MILLER, } Committee.

Report adopted.

35. Report of Committee on finance read by F. W. Zimmerman.

Report adopted. (See report elsewhere.—Clerk.)

36. Bro. W. P. Deshazo read the

REPORT ON TIME AND PLACE.

We, your committee, recommend that the next session of this body be held with Annie York church on Wednesday before the first Sunday in November, 1898, at 10:30, a. m.

W. P. DESHAZO,
Chairman.

Report adopted.

On motion of Bro. Newberry a collection of $4.00 was taken to aid Bro. James C. Skipper.

38. On motion of Bro. Forrester, that the memorial of Sister Gilmore, wife of Rev. M. P. Gilmore, be published in the minutes. Motion carried

39. Bro. B. G. Farmer read the following

VOTE OF THANKS.

Resolved that the thanks of this Association are due and are hereby tendered to the members of the Bluff Springs church and the good people of the Bluff Springs community for the kind attention and hospitable entertainment afforded the Association.

40. By motion of B. A. Forrester, the Clerk was allowed $25 00 for his services, and was instructed to have 800 copies of the minutes printed for distribution among the churches.

41. A motion to adjourn was adopted. The Association joined in singing "Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound," gave the parting hand and was led in prayer by W. C. Cleveland, after which the Association adjourned sine die.

R. M. JACKSON,
Clerk.

W. C. CLEVELAND,
Moderator.

IN MEMORIAM.

SISTER SUSAN GILMORE.

Sister Susan Gilmore, wife of Rev. M. P. Gilmore, and daughter of Rev. E. M. Knowles, departed this life May the 8th, 1897. Sister Gilmore was, in every act, deed and word a true Christian. She had been a member of the Baptist Church since early age. Sister Gilmore was 31 years of age at death. She is greatly missed in our community. She was good in every acceptation of the term, her cheerful willingness to relieve any real distress, her loving nature endeared her to all. She leaves a husband and 3 little boys, besides a host of friends to mourn her loss. While she has gone over the dark river of death to be with the three little ones gone before, let us remember that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord. Then, what is our loss is her eternal gain.

UNION HILL CHURCH.

CONSTITUTION OF COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 1, This union of churches shall be known and distinguished by the style and name of "The Columbia Baptist Association."

ART. 2. The object of the Association shall be to combine our Christian efforts for the purpose of carrying the appointed means of grace to dying men and women, and to regard all churches united under this constitution with a vigilant eye for good. Her principal object shall be to promote the declarative glory of God by extending His kingdom of grace on earth through the medium of preaching the gospel, and all other means within reach of a working christian organization.

ART. 3. This Association shall be composed of representatives from the churches as follows: Each church having one hundred members or less shall be entitled to two messengers, and to one additional messenger for every fifty members or fractional part thereof in excess of one hundred. But in the business of the Association whenever the messengers from any church desire it the vote shall be taken by churches in which case each church shall be entitled to two votes.

ART. 4. The messengers when convened shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the appointment of a Moderator and Clerk, and these officers shall be chosen by ballot, or otherwise as the body may decide at each annual meeting, and continue in office until their successors are chosen. Should any event transpire, so as to prevent any annual meeting of this Association, the Moderator shall have the power to call a meeting at any time and place, which meeting when convened, shall have all the rights of a regular meeting.

ART. 5. This Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies in all measures of internal government, and shall act in an advisory council assuming no authority but what is expressly delegated to her by the churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of the compact. But she nevertheless claims authority over her own members, the messengers of the churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of the compact by holding opinions repugnant to the doctrines of the Scriptures, or are disorderly in practice.

ART. 6 Newly constituted churches or churches dismissed from Associations of the same faith and order may be admitted into this union on their sending up messengers to an annual meeting with a petition, and those messengers agreeing to the abstract principles adopted by the Association.

ART. 7 The churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association written communications specifying the names of messengers, members in fellowship, baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored since last session and such other information, as the churches may deem important, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART 8. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by voluntary contribution of the churches; and all moneys thus contributed or otherwise received shall be transmitted through the finance committee to the treasurer who shall be elected by ballot or otherwise, as the body may decide, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association.

ART. 9. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body and deliver over the same to his successor in office

ART. 10 This Associatian when convened shall be governed by proper rules setting forth the duties of officers and such other matters necessary for a deliberative body, and may alter or amend such rules from time to time by a majority vote of the body in annual session

ART. 11. The executive committee shall attend to such duties as may be imposed upon it by the Association, and when the Association is not in session this committee shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided such alteration or amendment is not disapproved of by a majority of the churches in their written communications to the next annual session of the body.

DECORUM.

1st. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the deliberations of the Association in session, preserve order, submit motions or other matter and announce results when passed on by the body. He may have the same right of speech as any other member provided the chair is occupied, but is not allowed to vote, except the body be equally divided, in which case he shall give the casting vote.

2nd. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a correct record of the minutes of the proceedings in a clear and concise manner, and immediately after the adjournment of each annual session, to prepare a copy of the same for distribution to the churches, for the payment of which he shall draw his draft upon the Treasurer of the Association.

3rd. The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all monies coming into his hands, as well as the manner in which it is distributed. He shall only pay out money upon the order of the Association in session, or the Executive Committee in vacation. He shall render an annual statement to the Association of all funds received and distributed by him showing the balance, if any, remaining on hand.

4th. This Association shall not consider any query or other matter affecting the churches, unless they have first endeavored to solve the same and failed; nor any difficulty between churches, unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew and have not been able to bring about a settlement and reconciliation, in which case the Association shall take such matters under consideration, and act upon them or not at her discretion.

5th. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation and be acted upon by the body, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

6th. Every person who speaks in debate, shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject of debate.

7th. No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without leave of the body. And it shall be a violation of these rules for any member to abruptly break off or absent himself without leave of the body; and if he does so he shall be liable to reproof by the Moderator.

8th. The Clerk, Treasurer and all members of the standing committees shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking and voting as other members, except in cases where the interests of any individual church is to be affected by the matter at issue. In this latter case they may express their views, but shall not be allowed to vote.

9th. These rules may be altered or amended by a majority of the members in session.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe in the existence of one only true and living God, and that he has made himself known to his people under the name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, the same in essence and equal in divine perfection. John 4: 24. Ps. 147: 5. Rom. 1: 20. Jer. 10: 10. Ex. 15: 11. Rev. 4: 6, 8. John 10: 30. John 5: 17.

Art. 2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and the only rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17. Rom. 3: 1, 2. 2 Tim. 3: 15. Proverbs 30: 5, 6. Rom. 2: 12.

Art. 3. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world; that they should be holy and without blame before him in love, having predestined them to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will. Tim. 1: 8, 9. Eph. 1: 3, 12. 1 Pet. 1: 1, 2. Rom. 11: 5 6. Rom. 8: 28 38. 2 Thess. 2: 13, 14. Ex. 33: 18 19. Matt. 20: 15. 2 Pet. 1: 10, 11.

Art. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. Gen. 1. 27. Gen. 3: 6-24. Rom. 5: 19. Eph. 2: 1 3. Ezek. 18: 19, 20.

Art. 5. We believe in man's incompetency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own will and ability. Eph. 2: 8. Matt. 18: 11. Acts

15: 11. Isa. 53: 4, 5. Heb. 7: 25.

Art. 6. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Acts 13: 39. Rom. 5: 9. Rom. 5: 17. Rom. 4: 4, 5. Rom. 5: 19. Rom. 5: 1, 2.

Art. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost. John 3: 3. John 3: 6, 7, 8. 2 Cor. 5: 17. John 1: 13. James 1: 14-18. 1 John 5: 1.

Art. 8. We believe that nothing can separate the true believers from the love of God, but that they will be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. John 8: 31 1 John 2: 19. Rom. 8: 8. Phil. 1: 6. Phil. 2: 12, 13.

Art. 9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances, and that immersion only is baptism. Acts 8: 35-39. Matt. 3: 5, 6. Matt. 28: 19. Rom. 6: 4. Col. 2: 12. Acts 2: 41, 42.

Art. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgement. 1 Pet. 4: 7 Acts 1: 11. Acts 24: 15. Matt. 13: 49. Matt. 25. 31-46

Art. 11 We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joy of the righteous will be eternal. Mal. 3: 18. 1 John 5: 19. Prov. 14: 32. Luke 16: 25 John 8: 21-24. Matt. 7: 13, 14.

Art 12. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinance unless he is called of God, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery, and is in fellowship in the church of which he is a member. 1 Cor. 1: 1-13. 2 Cor. 8: 5 1 Cor. 11: 2. Rom. 16: 17-20. 1 Cor. 4: 17.

Art. 13. We believe that a proper administrator of the ordinance of baptism should be called of God, set apart by a Presbytery and in full fellowship with the church of which he is a member. Phil 1: 1. Acts 14: 23. 1 Tim. 3. Titus 1.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Belonging to the
COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Armstrong, Aris, Headland.
Cleveland, W. C., D. D., Columbia.
Fordham, B. J., Pleasant Plains.
Keyton, J. R., Dothan.
Lisenby, H. L., Dothan.
Oliff, G. W., Cowarts.
Pearce, J. D., Dothan.
Stewart, W. P., Columbia,
Skipper, J. C., Dothan.
White, J. J., Cowarts.
Deese, Z.
Spivey, S. T.
Williford, S.
White, I. A.

STATISTICS OF THE ASSOCIATION, 1897.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P O	Membership last reported.	INCREASE			DECREASE				Present Membership.	SUNDAY SCHOOL.			Preach'g Sab'th.	
						Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.		Officers and Teachers.	Pupils.	Supt.'s Name and Postoffice.		
Annie York	Geneva	J. D. Courtney	J. H. Lisenby	Taylor		36	19		1	1			60				3d	Ch'rches organized during year:
Ashford	Henry	S. A. Savell	J. P Dupree	Ashford		9	2		11	3			58				1st	
Balkum	Henry	W H. F. Smith	S. C. T. Sasser	Balkum		1	1		—	1			53			J. A. Summerford, Balkum.	1st	
Bay Springs	Dale	S. Williford	T. B. Fortson	Pinckard		19	7		4	—			42				1st	Annie York.
Bethel	Henry	J. C. Skipper	G. W. Taylor	Dothan		9	8		10	1			81				2d	
Bluff Springs	Henry	J. J. White	A. Sinquefield	Ashford		13	10	2	29	3		1	131				2d	Pleasant Grove.
Camp Springs	Henry	M. Page	J. F. Hasty	Columbia		1	1		7	3		—	62				4th	
Columbia	Henry	W. C. Cleveland	T. P. McGriff	Columbia	192	2	9		14	2		2	186	11	60	A. A. Jones, Columbia.	ev'ry Sun	
Cowarts	Henry	J. J. White	N. S. Fellows	Cowarts		4	7	1	7	4		—	114	4	125	R. A. Forrester, Cowarts.	1st	
Dothan	Henry	—— —— ——	B. G. Farmer	Dothan		1	11		14	—		1	199	—		P. G. Farmer, Dothan.		
Ebenezer	Henry	G. W. Oliff	W. A. Webb	Columbia		18	19	8	8	5		—	126	3	45	John Truner, Columbia.	3d	
Enterprise	Henry	G. W. Oliff	R. M. Jackson	Ashford		43	22		32	--		—	51				1st	
Halesburg	Henry	W. P. Stewart	S. T. Hall	Halesburg		11	1		6	1		1	68				3d	
Hickory Grove	Henry	A. H. Taylor	W. G. Batton	Cottonwood		3	5		2	6		—	43					
Liberty	Henry	—— —— ——	J. S. Williams	Pansey		2	3	3	11	3		1	68				2d	
Memphis	Henry	S. T. Spivey	A. J. Butler	Dothan		—	3	3	24	15		—	128				3d	
Midway	Dale	H. L. Lisenby	J. M. Moates	Dothan		—	1		—	—		1	29				2d	
Mt. Ararat	Henry	Z. Deese	W. R. Nall	Dothan		17	4		7	2		—	85				1st	
Mt. Enon	Geneva	G. W. Oliff	C. L. Hughes	Sanders	59	21	16	7	4	6		1	102				4th	
Mt. Gilead	Geneva	J. D. Courtney	I. J. Austin	Dothan		5	2	2	3	—		1	37					
Mt. Pleasant	Dale	R. B. Arnold	J. M. Mann	Midland City		2	6	1	11	1		—	215				4th	
New Providence	Geneva	J. D. Courtney	Jas. Clark	Sanders		5	—	2	3	1		—	55					
Pleasant Grove	Henry	G. W. Oliff	H. R. Moody	Ashford		3	31		—	—		--	34				2d	
Pleasant Hill	Henry	W. H. Simmons	—— —— ——	Gordon		2	5		--	—		1	19					
Pilgrims Rest	Henry	G. T Hurst	W. P. Miller	Crosby	52	5	2		11	1	1	1	45	8	40	John P. McNeil, Crosby.	2d	
Rohoboth	Henry	S. T. Spivey	Jas W. Battle	Taylor		10	9	2	5	4		1	134				2d	
Selma	Geneva	S T. Spivey	S. Martin	Dothan		3	—	1	9	7		—	99				1st	
Sharon	Henry	D. E. Burdeshaw	W. P. Temples, Jr	Dothan		4	6		8	1		—	52					
Union Hill	Henry	M. P. Gilmore	D P. Ontlaw	Cottonwood	54	27	16	2	2	—		1	99					
Pleasant Plains	Henry	S. A. Savell	V. L. Webb	McRae		3	5	1	6	—		1	85				2d	
					357	277	132	35	249	61	1	14	2660	26	270			

279 231

2440

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER 4, 1897.

We, the Committee, report collections as follows:

CHURCHES.	MISSIONS.								EDUCATION.					ASSOCIATION'L PURPOSES	TOTAL VOUCHERS AND CASH	TOTAL CASH
	STATE		HOME		FOREIGN		AM. BAP. PUBL'N SOCIETY		MINISTERIAL		ORPHAN'S HOME		MINUT'S			
	Cash	VO'CH'R	CASH	VO'CH'R	CASH	VO'CH'R	CASH	VO'CH'R	CASH	VO'CH'R	CASH	VO'CH'R				
Annie York			1 05										1 00		2 05	2 05
Ashford		6 70											1 00	1 00	8 70	2 00
Balkum											2 00		1 25	1 25	4 50	4 50
Bay Springs			20		20								1 00	25	1 65	1 65
Bethel			1 00								1 46		75	1 00	4 21	4 21
Bluff Springs	1 50	3 31	1 50		7 60						6 65		1 50	1 00	23 06	19 75
Camp Springs	1 90	1 25	1 00		1 05								1 00	1 00	7 20	5 95
Columbia		56 00		30 00		30 00				36 00		40 00	2 00		194 00	2 00
Cowarts		14 04	23 00		21 75						23 00		1 50	1 50	84 79	70 75
Dothan			14 91		14 91								2 50	2 50	34 82	34 82
Ebenezer					60								1 75	35	2 70	2 70
Enterprise					1 05						2 15		75	50	4 45	4 45
Halesburg													1 50		1 50	1 50
Hickory Grove													50	1 00	1 50	1 50
Liberty	50		1 00		50								55		2 55	2 55
Memphis													1 00	75	1 75	1 75
Midway													50	50	1 00	1 00
Mt. Ararat											1 00		1 25	1 00	3 25	3 25
Mt. Enon											1 05		1 25	55	2 85	2 85
Mt. Gilead													1 00	55	1 55	1 55
Mt. Pleasant		7 65											1 72		9 37	1 72
New Providence			2 35										1 00		3 35	3 35
Pleasant Grove											1 25		75	75	2 75	2 75
Pleasant Hill			1 00										1 10	1 00	3 10	3 10
Pilgrims Rest		5 10											1 50	3 60	14 51	5 10
Rohoboth							4 31						1 50	1 00	2 50	2 50
Selma					25						51		1 00	20	1 96	1 96
Sharon													1 00	1 20	2 20	2 20
Union Hill					2 75								2 00		4 75	4 75
Pleasant Plains	1 50				1 00						1 50		1 50	1 00	6 50	6 50
Coll'ns at Ass'ns	12 63								4 55		20 35				37 53	37 53
Totat.	18 03	94 05	47 01	30 00	51 66	30 00	4 31		4 55	36 00	60 92	40 00	36 62	23 45	469 90	242 24
	112.08		77.01		81.66				40.55		100.92		60.07			

Respectfully submitted,

F. W. ZIMMERMAN,
O. L. McARTHUR,
F. A. GRIMSLEY,
Committee.

Aged Mims 4.00